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## SOUTH JERSEY TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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April 24, 2009

Hon. Frank A. LoBiondo  
Member of Congress  
2427 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC, 20515-3002

Dear Congressman LoBiondo:

I am writing in support of the Redesign and Reconstruction of West Landis Avenue in the City of Vineland, Cumberland County, submitted by the City of Vineland for consideration as a High Priority Project in the upcoming reauthorization of SAFETEA – LU. The City of Vineland is seeking \$5,286,000 in federal funding for the project, and is confident that if funded, it can be constructed within five years.

West Landis Avenue is the gateway to the heart of the City of Vineland from the only limited access highway serving Cumberland County (SH 55). The project limits extend from Route 55 to Delsea Drive (SH 47), the beginning of the City's central business district, a nationally designated Main Street. Within these limits are a number of businesses, including five hotel/motels, restaurants, medical facilities and other business/commercial sites.

Previously a State highway itself, this portion of Landis Avenue is in dire need of redesign. Two of the three signalized intersections within the project limits consistently have very high accident rates, including fatalities, because of poor geometry. When under State jurisdiction, the intersection of Landis Avenue/Mill Road was in fact listed as one of the highest accident intersections in the State. Both the intersections of Landis Avenue/Mill Road and Landis Avenue/Orchard Road need geometric and signal upgrades. These intersections are undersized and in need of reconfiguration to provide better traffic flow and improved safety. To address the safety issues, the entire roadway needs reconfiguration, including new striping patterns, revised curb radii, improved geometrics and new traffic signals.

The stormwater collection system is also in need of replacement to address new State regulations. Additionally, sidewalks and bike lanes are warranted based on recent development in the area. These improvements would further promote alternative means of transportation and make Landis Avenue a "Complete Street". The entire roadway between Route 55 and Delsea Drive (SH 55) needs to be redesigned and rebuilt.

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This highway is the gateway to the downtown of the largest city in the State. This road that was established during colonial times needs to be upgraded to accommodate a growing city in the center of South Jersey.

**The South Jersey Transportation Planning Organization fully supports the Redesign and Reconstruction of West Landis Avenue in the City of Vineland.**

**Should this project be included in the SAFETEA – LU reauthorization, all of our public involvement procedures for the Transportation Improvement Program will be maintained, including formal public notice, website posting, and presentation at an open public meeting.**

**No other federal, State, local, or private funding sources are anticipated to be used to advance this project.**

Thank you for your consideration of this critical project, and please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy G. Chelius".

Timothy G. Chelius, P.P., AICP  
Executive Director

TGC:mal

Cc: Hon. Robert Romano, Mayor, City of Vineland